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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Lehman et al.

Serial No: 10/033,144

Filing Date: 10/26/01

Title: AN APPARATUS AND
METHOD OF DOPING SILICA
WITH FLUORINE DURING
LAYDOWN

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: J. Derrington

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO THE EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated October 1, 2002, designated as Paper No. 4 in the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendments and consider the Remarks as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

(Amended) 1. A method for doping silica soot with fluorine during laydown, comprising the steps of:

- A
- providing a bait rod;
 - providing a burner, the burner emitting a reactant flame;
 - providing at least one first gas-feed separated from the burner, the gas-feed being in fluid communication with a source for supplying a first jet of fluorine based gases from the source;
 - depositing on a radial surface of the bait rod a layer of silica soot on the bait rod by vaporizing a silica producing gas emitted from the burner within the reactant flame of the burner; and

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